

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed 30 January 2004, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-15, 27-60 and 80-89. Of these, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-15, 38, 46-60 and 80-89 are allowed. Claims 27-37 have been rejected in view of prior art. Claims 39-45 are objected to.

Applicant has amended claims 39-45 and canceled claims 27-37. Claims 1-15, 38-60 and 80-89 remain pending.

The Examiner has crossed out citations in the submitted IDS that do not include date and/or page information. A new Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted herewith listing all but two of the references which were crossed out by the Examiner. The SB/08 includes date and page information for each of the listed references. We were unable to find date information for the two excluded references.

Objection to claims 39-45

The Examiner objected to claims 39-45 due to a typographical error in the reference to base claim 38 in the preamble. Applicant has amended the claims herein as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to claims 39-45 is respectfully requested in view of the amendment.

Rejection of Claims 27-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)


Claims 27-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liebmann et al., U.S. Patent 5,923,562. Applicants have canceled claims 27-37 herein without prejudice.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee determined to be due in connection with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (NMTI 1002-3).

Respectfully submitted,

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